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[Plate I-facing title page]

137 *sitifolia, S. aizoides, S. aizoon, Erysimum Witmanni, Phyteuma orbiculare, Silene Zawadskii, Onobrychis montana var. transilvanica, Cerastium alpinum, C. lanatum, Oxytropus campestris, Alsine gerardi, Campanula alpina, C. carpatica, Alyssum repens* (endemic), *Rhinanthus alpinus, Rhodiola rosea, Sedum atratum.* In the cracks in the rocks where moisture collected were noted *Pinguicula alpina, P. vulgaris, Saxifraga aizoides, S. androsacea, Viola biflora, Arabis alpina, Achillea Schurii, Biscutella laevigata,* and *Androsace lactea.*

It was obvious that to make a detailed study of this interesting mountain with its forest, plateau, gullies, scree slopes, etc., and other varying ecological factors, a much longer time would have been necessary than was possible under the conditions of our visit to the country.

The Walk by Way of Bilbor, Paltiniş, Vatra Dornei, etc., and down the Bistrita River by Timber Raft to Broşteni (Brosceni).

133 This interesting excursion was made by a number of the
233 party, and afforded a very good opportunity of seeing the country as some fifty miles were covered on foot in two days. We passed over fine slopes and through delightful valleys with their meadows bedecked with many species of flowering plants. There was time during such a walk only to notice the most salient features of the vegetation. We, however, saw hillsides where sheep were grazed quite to the top, also
[343] a mountain dairy where they were being milked. The temporary shelters for those cropping the hay in the valleys at some distance from their usual habitations were interesting, and the whole family appeared to sleep there and cook their meals till the area had been cleared.

531 During our stay at Vatra Dornei, through the kindness of
346 the mayor and the prefect of the district, we were taken by car over a mountain pass down to Campulung and from thence to the wonderful walled monastery of Moldoviţa (Moldawitza) with fine sixteenth-century frescoes covering
313 its walls. The chief point of interest from a vegetation point of view was the fine spruce forests which we saw and in which felling was in progress, the logs being pushed down the mountain side to timber carts at the bottom. The next day we had evidence of the importance of the lumbering industry

295 by imported boots and shoes, whilst socks and stockings bought at the local fairs are beginning to be preferred to the traditional method of bandaging the feet (see Appendix V).

WOOD.

312 THE most characteristic of the other local occupations are concerned with wood. Each peasant is allowed a certain amount of timber annually, the cutting of which is arranged by the Forestry Co-operative Society, but for every tree felled a new one has to be planted. Among the men of the village the making of wooden spoons, jugs and plates, often elaborately carved, is a favourite pursuit, though it is being threatened by cheap imported metal goods, so that in this, as in other ways, a rapid transition from medieval to modern conditions seems likely to occur in the near future.

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THE GREEK CATHOLIC PRIEST.

793 ALTHOUGH primarily concerned with the spiritual welfare of his flock, the Greek Catholic (Uniate) priest in Corbu, as elsewhere in Roumania, is intimately bound up with the economic life of the community. Following the rule of the Eastern and Uniate Churches for their secular clergy with a cure of souls, the priest is married and depends to a considerable extent upon his land for his maintenance. He is often trusted with public and private business on behalf of the commune and its members. To him the peasants may bring their maize to be ground, their sunflower seeds to be crushed, their timber to be sawn and their cloth to be scoured. The water of the Bistricioara that runs past the priest's house is harnessed to provide power at Corbu for these operations, and from the services he thus renders to the villagers the priest gets part of his income.

IV. THE FUTURE

070 IT IS CLEAR from the foregoing account that Corbu is a mountain community that is rapidly approaching a crisis in its history. The old economic self-sufficiency is being undermined by the insidious influence of the journeyman, and the cheapness of the new wares that he is introducing will tend to increase the amount of leisure that the peasant already enjoys by releasing labour that he has hitherto expended on

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WOMAN'S SHEEPSKIN COAT

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Front

Back

MAN'S SHEEPSKIN COAT

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[facing page 76]

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Woman's embroidered blouse.
Photo. Miss C. A. Perkins.

Roumanian peasant at Bran in the Transylvanian Alps. Photo: H. I. Hancock.

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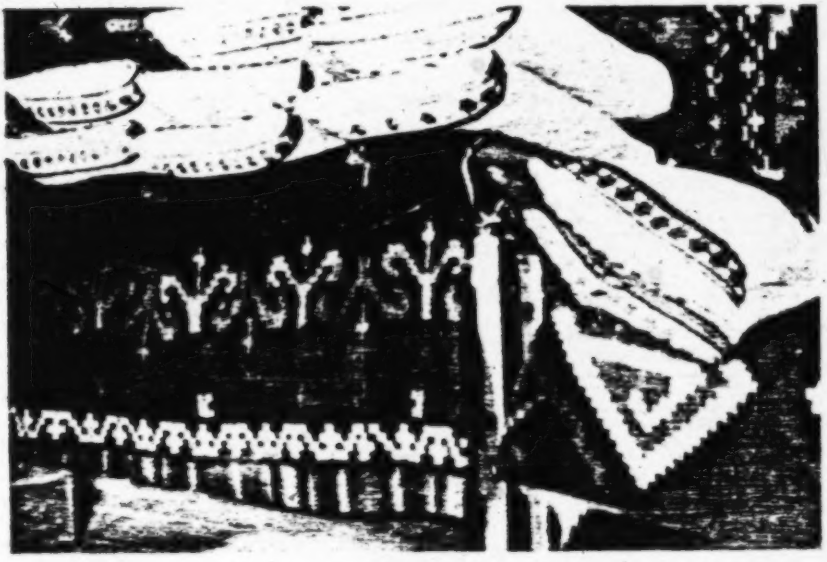

Portion of girl's dowry, showing elaborately embroidered pillows and bed-covers.
Photo: Miss C. I. Mackreth.

Plate XVI.

[facing page 77]

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Two peasants at the fair Curtea de Arges.

A handsomely-adorned peasant's costume. The back is as richly decorated as the front. Peasant woman at Curtea de Arges.

Curtea de Arges. Peasants in their richly embroidered coloured costumes arriving at the fair.
Photo by H. J. Howard

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6. *Woven Goods.*—Here the high skill and craftsmanship of the Carpathian peasant is most obviously illustrated. Woollen cloths are the commonest, carded wool also being offered for sale. Linen, silk and hempen stuffs are displayed, the finer materials often having gold or silver threads woven into them; they are made up into blouses, skirts, veils and belts. Some machine-made cotton goods also for sale.

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7. *Embroidered Goods.*—Velvet waistcoats with gold embroidery and bead work. Linen or woollen cloths are embroidered with wool, silk, or mercerised cotton. Round sequins, thought to betray Turkish influence, are very popular.

8. *Carpets.*—Locally woven carpets of traditional colours and designs far outnumber machine-made copies of Persian carpets.

9. *Food and Confectionery.*—Bread, doughnuts, sausages, fish, gingerbread, sweets. Sugar dolls, hearts, circles, diamonds and other shapes. Sugar rosaries. Drinks are hawked by Turkish itinerants. The restaurants and drinking booths have gipsy fiddlers.

10. *Cheap Jewellery.*—Trinkets, mirrors, beads, combs, buttons, studs, pins, rings, brooches, etc.

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11. *Entertainments.*—The fat woman and the one-minute photographer, shooting ranges, cock-shies, games of chance, fortune-telling. The merry-go-round is driven by five men, who push it round on a high wooden platform fixed to the central axis, with the accompaniment of peasant music. Other bands supply music for the dancing which takes place under the trees.

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APART FROM the gipsy goods and the articles offered in the permanent booths, the goods displayed vary from day to day as different groups of peasants come in from the country. There is a constant coming and going of bullock carts over the bridge, bringing in stock and peasant products for sale. The normal limit of influence exerted by the fair is some 25 kilometres.

E. E. E.

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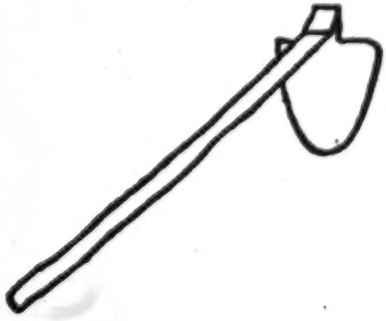

Hoe.
Blade the size of an English spade. See page 41.

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342 Windows are generally double even in the simpler houses, one opening to the inside, the other to the outside. They are always barred and set in a wooden frame (Jänecke, 1918: 27-28).

342 531 The Rumanian house is noteworthy for its exterior decorations. Special attention and much imagination is given to the woodwork. Much art is evident in the pillars supporting the roof over the veranda (fig. 57d), lintels supporting the eaves, the railings of the veranda and the window and door frames. The corners of houses may have designs in low relief. Painted designs may be placed on the wall in great abundance (figs. 57a, 57b). Because of the lesser opportunity of embellishment through woodwork and because whitewashed walls lend themselves well to painting, painting of the exterior is characteristic of the plains. The Rumanian does not shy away from bright colors. Ultramarine is most popular, for it is said to scare away evil spirits. Combinations of red, blue and yellow are common, and dark green shades are also favored (Jänecke, 1918: 23). [789] [862]

342 [184] [341] The basic difference between the house of the lowlands and those of the mountain region is that the latter are of two-story construction (fig. 64a). Building materials in the mountains are stone and wood rather than wicker and mud. When houses are built on an incline a high stone foundation forms the ground floor (pivnita). This can be used for stables, storage rooms and also as a wine cellar. This form persists even when the terrain is flat. The higher house is appreciated for its better view, greater security and suitability for defense.

While the floor plan often consists of a row of rooms similar to that of the lowlands, a number of changes have taken place. The anteroom with its large hearth is generally left out (fig. 64b). This is due to the fact that the bricks that line the hearth are not available, and the wooden walls are more inflammable than the predominantly mud ones of the plains. Where the hearth is present it is put into a special annex. Instead of the hearth an oven-stove (a combination stove and oven) is used, which permits the main room to be used as living room and sleeping room as well as a kitchen. [354]

The two-room house predominates; due to the absence of the connecting anteroom, each room has a door to the veranda (čerdak) (fig. 66). Sometimes the veranda at the top of the stairway is expanded into a hall-like structure (foişor) (fig. 64a) covered by a hipped roof at right angles to the main roof. In summer most activities take place there.

The foundation is made of rocks or of large pebbles from the river. Walls are made of horizontal logs or boards which cross at the corners, each fitting into a notch in the other. A mud or lime plaster is never omitted, and to facilitate this plastering thin laths are nailed diagonally across the beams.

The roof is steeper than in the plains and protrudes further over the house. The support is in the form of a collar. The rafters tend to be too widely spaced, which results in slight bending of the battens; but, while it makes for a weaker roof, this results in softer and more pleasing lines. The four corners are not sharp but tend to be rounded (fig. 62). Wooden shingles are almost exclusively used for roof covering. They are about 15 centimeters wide and may be as long as 3 meters. They overlap two to four times. Shorter shingles form 6–10 rows. The smaller shingles may have their ends in the form of swallow tails or other decorative shapes. The ridge shows a special development. On the windward side the first layer of shingles is made to protrude over the ridgepole (fig. 62). These shingles also have excised patterns and are very ornamental. The ridgepoles may extend slightly over the hip and have a small gabled roof, one shingle in height (fig. 62). This provides an opening for the smoke to escape through. Ornamental poles rise at either end of the ridgepole (fig. 61).

Chimneys are lacking and the smoke may escape through openings at the ridge or otherwise through the roof, which then shows all shades of gray to black. In some areas of Oltenia in southwestern Rumania one finds wooden chimneys (fig. 65). These are made of wicker and daub and are covered with shingles.

A special development in the foothills of the Southern Carpathian Mountains is the privy, which is in the form of an annex located at the end of the veranda (fig. 64b).

In general the buildings in the mountain districts show a greater variation than those of the plains. The woodwork is superior, and shows a great deal of inventiveness. The construction, however, is irregular, sloppy and often not functional. Pillars that carry no weight may be very thick, while those that must support much weight may be much too slender (Jänecke, 1918: 35–43).

Kulas (fig. 67) are found only in the mountainous regions of Oltenia in the district of Mehedinti, Gorj and Râmnicu-Vâlcea. They were built by the boyars, the wealthy landowners. The oldest ones come from the period when the Rumanian rulers were paying tribute to the sultan. The ground plan is a square 7 by 12 meters in length. The width of the walls is 30–70 centimeters. The kula (fig. 67) may have three or four stories, each about 2.5 meters in height. Each story has one room. The ground floor is used for storage; sometimes a well is built into it, and occasionally there is a subterranean escape passage. The upper floors may also be used for storage, but are mainly living quarters. Windows are generally found only on one side; the other walls are provided with loopholes. On the top floor there is generally an open veranda (cerdak) about 3 meters wide, the roof over which is supported by pillars (fig. 67). The exposure is toward the valley and the south. On the side opposite the cerdak there is a simple wooden balcony under the eaves (fig. 67). Many kulas have a privy tower attached to them.

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The stairway, about 1.25 meters wide made of massive logs, is generally on the inside of the buildings; when it is located on the outside it leads onto the wooden balcony. The exterior is white-washed. In addition, the surface is decorated with molded bands around each story division. There may also be a vertical division, thus creating a number of large panels. While these areas are symmetrical, neither they nor the molded bands that enclose them have any relation to the placing of windows or pillars (Jänecke, 1918: 62-63).

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In 1893 there still existed about 55,000 earth huts (bordei) which were inhabited by the poorest population, generally Gypsies (fig. 63). They are common in the Danubian plain. Over an excavation 1-3 meters deep is placed a gabled roof. The roof is made of boards over which earth is laid. Sometimes reeds are placed over the boards before the earthen cover is added. The entrance is on one of the gabled sides, generally with a southerly exposure, and a window is placed on each gable side (Jänecke, 1918: 4).

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Farm Buildings. In the lowlands the buildings are arranged in no definite order; though generally the house is closest to the road. The corn-house (coşar) is either opposite to or at right angles to the house so that it can be watched. The yard and orchard are surrounded by a fence. The simplest fence is made of wickerwork between wooden poles. More often, however, it is made of boards
[556] that have intricate excised designs (fig. 60). The wealthy people
[563] may add an imposing gateway with a small door. Flower or vegetable
[244] gardens are rare, and the latter are called bulgări, since they are
[247] generally kept by immigrant Bulgarians who grow all the vegetables
[245] for town consumption (Stratilesco, 1907: 233). The farmstead is surrounded by shady trees, and there is generally a plum orchard at the back of the farm buildings (Jänecke, 1918: 8-9).

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In the mountain regions the arrangement of the buildings in the yard differs from that of the lowlands. The stables and other buildings are arranged on the border of the yard in a horseshoe form to serve as protection for the house. The yard is usually very small, and has a strong high palisade with a massive gateway, the whole giving the farm a fortress-like appearance (the author points to the presence of bears in summer and wolves in winter) (Jänecke, 1918: 32-35).

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In the lowlands there are generally not many additional farm buildings in the yard, and this fact is correlated with the pattern of building additional annexes to the house, a more economical and practical procedure. Stables are of the simplest lathwork or wickerwork, covered with a straw roof. Sheds for the storage of straw, hay and cornstalks are absent, for the latter are stacked into tall round piles in the open. The baking oven for summer use, made of mud and bricks, has a hipped roof supported by four pillars.

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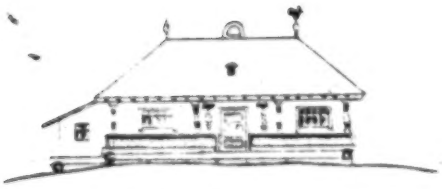

Fig. 57a House of the Lowlands

Fig. 57b Side View of Fig. 57a

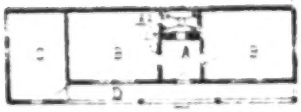

Fig. 57c Floor Plan of Fig. 57a
A) Anteroom, B) Living Room
C) Storage Room, D) Veranda

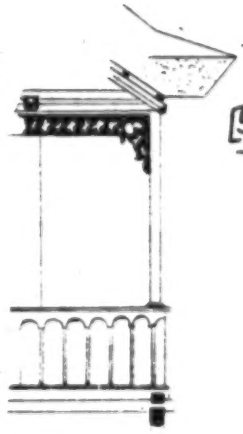

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Fig. 57d Woodwork on the Veranda

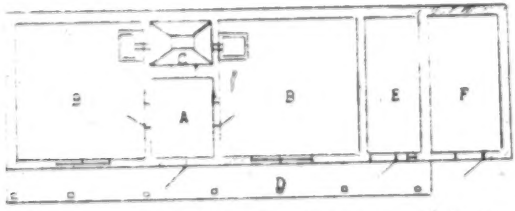

Fig. 58 House with two Annexes. A) Anteroom, B) Living Room, C) Fireplace, D) Veranda, E) Stable, F) Chicken Coop

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Fig. 59a Corn-house

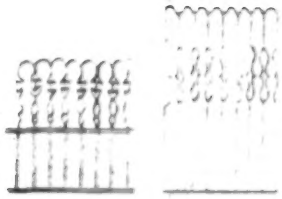

Fig. 60 Fence with Excised Designs

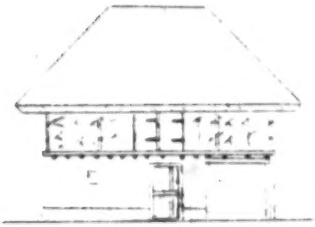

Fig. 59b Front View of Fig. 59a

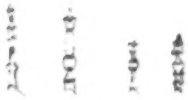

Fig. 61 Decorations at End of Ridgepole

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Fig. 62 Arrangement of Shingles at Ridgepole

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Fig. 59c Floor Plan of Fig. 59a
A) Stable
B) Cart-shed

Fig. 63 Semi-subterranean House of the Danube Plain

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